



ARTICLE ALERT

AUGUST 2013

U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

The U.S. Mission partners with Indonesia to strengthen the bonds between our people and our governments to promote and protect democracy, security, and sustainable prosperity for our people, the region, and the world.

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50th Anniversary of March on Washington & "I Have a Dream" Speech



50 Years of American Heroes by President Obama

Fifty years ago, the heroic voice of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. rang out across our capital, our country, and the world, and called on us to become the more perfect union he believed we were destined to be. A country which endows every man, woman and child with unalienable rights to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

These are words which we repeat so often, that their depth and relevance today can easily be missed.

Any nation which pledges to honor its citizen's right to "life" should enact and protect laws which ensure high quality and affordable access to the doctors, treatment, and preventative care we need to live full and healthy lives.

Any country committed to defending "liberty" should protect our fundamental right as Americans; the right to vote. Our liberty is dependent upon free and inclusive elections, and our ability to peacefully hold our leaders accountable, while directing the course of our country. Dr. King was the first to tell us that the "arc of the moral universe is long, but that it bends toward justice." President Obama went further today, to remind us all that "the arc of the moral universe may bend toward justice, but it doesn't bend on its own."

The right to "pursue happiness" is most secure when we put the education of all of our children, the growth of our economy, the health of our businesses, the creation of jobs, and the stability of our markets ahead of self-interest, and political posturing. Every American deserves to feel the pride of a hard-earned paycheck,

and the opportunity to achieve their dreams, regardless of who they are, or the zip code of their birth.

As we reflect on the tremendous progress made over the past half-century, we honor those brave leaders who paved the way, and upon whose shoulders we all stand, by recognizing our responsibility to undertake the immense job still at hand. This is a time to reaffirm our commitment to the ideals on which America was founded, and to help ensure this country continues to "rise up," as Dr. King declared 50 years ago, and "live out the true meaning of its creed."

As President Obama traced the steps of giants today, let us also remember the extraordinary things accomplished by the countless ordinary people, who President Obama often calls America's "quiet heroes." They are our parents and grandparents; our coworkers, classmates, and neighbors. They are the men and women in this country who have rolled up their sleeves, and laced up their work boots every day over the past five decades to move this country forward. Some who marched – others who simply took the early shift, year after year, so they would be home in time to cook dinner for their families before heading to a second job. Let us remember the many who have faced down violence, despair, and incredible odds, just to give their children a chance at a better life, and our country the chance to live up to its full potential.

Today we salute the heroes who inspired us 50 years ago, and we honor the millions more whose blood, sweat, and divine strength have served to define our nation. We honor them with our reverence, and our willingness to sacrifice for the greater good, and march on. We honor them with our urgent action to deliver all Americans the rights and opportunities they deserve.

Full Remark is available at <http://snip.state.gov/69e>

Related Links:

- ◆ 50th Anniversary, "I Have a Dream" Speech and March
Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/66z>
- ◆ A Living Dream: 50th Anniversary of "I Have a Dream" Speech.
Video available at: <http://snip.state.gov/6a6>
- ◆ Free at Last: Excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech
Audio available at: <http://snip.state.gov/6a7>

DEMOCRACY & IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

1. The Causes and Consequences of Earth Overshoot Day/ By Carter Roberts. Foreign Affairs, August 2013.

Many readers will be familiar with the worrisome, white-knuckle wait that comes when you drain your checking account long before payday, the anxiety that builds until the coffers are replenished. That is what all of humanity has signed on for, effective today. Earth Overshoot Day marks the moment when, according to Global Footprint Network, an independent think tank based in the United States, Switzerland, and Belgium, humanity's demand for natural resources exceeds the earth's ability to renew them in a year. As of today, just 34 weeks into 2013, we are officially in ecological overdraft. Currently available at <http://snip.state.gov/674>

2. How the U.S. Economy is Like a Casino: A Quick Explainer on Monetary Policy/ By Kasia Cieplak-Mayr von Baldegg. The Atlantic Monthly, August 2013

What's the difference between fiscal policy and monetary policy? Of the hundreds of questions submitted by readers to our Economics in Plain English video series, this one struck us as a fun challenge. What are monetary and fiscal policy? What are they for? And is it possible to

explain it quickly and painlessly?

In the report, business editor Derek Thompson offers up a useful way to think about it. Capitalism only works if people with money are willing to take risks. So imagine the U.S. economy as a giant casino. In a recession, there aren't enough people making bets at the table. Fiscal and monetary policy use different strategies to get gamblers to gamble -- to spend their money and power the economy. Currently available online at <http://snip.state.gov/675>

3. How Governments Are Innovating Their Workforces/ By Mike Maciag. Governing, August 2013.

Governing conducted a survey of senior state and local officials assessing the current state of the public-sector workforce, examining a range of issues crucial to public employees. The responses paint a portrait of a sector hard-hit by budget cuts, with many lamenting pay freezes and a lack of advancement opportunities. But the news isn't all bad. Governments made great strides in advancing new and improved workforce initiatives, giving plenty of reasons for optimism. Currently available online at <http://snip.state.gov/69h>

GLOBAL ISSUES & ENVIRONMENT



4. Earth's Weighty Wellsprings / Nasa Observation. Nasa.gov, August 2013.

Water storage refers to groundwater, soil moisture, snow, ice, and surface waters. Groundwater is the portion of the water residing in underground aquifers. Scientists know that changes in climate and weather influence water storage, and vice versa, but they don't fully understand how the relationship works. As a result, predicting water storage changes is difficult, even with sophisticated computer models. Scientists need more observations,

but these are not easy to make over large areas. Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/6a8>

5. Three Cities That Used Natural Disasters to Revitalize Their Futures/ By Liz Farmer. Governing.com, August 2013.

Hit by tornadoes and earthquakes, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Greensburg, Kan.; and San Francisco all learned how to turn local tragedy into a new and vibrant vision. Their lessons are a playbook for local officials dealing with disasters. While cities mourn their losses, they face the huge task of rebuilding and the frustrating wait for federal and state money to help with the effort. But some cities -- Tuscaloosa among them -- take on an additional challenge: They make a post-disaster leap from replacing to revitalizing. Full text is available at <http://snip.state.gov/676>

EJOURNAL USA

The Corporate Conscience



While the concept of corporate social responsibility is still somewhat controversial, as attested to in a debate on p. 22, many businesses have discovered that responsible stewardship of their environments can be smart business and that "doing well by doing good" motivates their workers. This issue's feature stories show different shades of business stewardship and their related challenges and rewards. The reporting in these pages leaves me with a strong impression that business contributions to the public good will only grow.

Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/672>

6. The Next Economic Bubble: The Coming Green Tech Mania -- And Why It's a Good Thing/ By William H. Janeway. Foreign Affairs, August 2013.

Economic bubbles have also been necessary. Occasionally, the object of speculation has been one of those fundamental technological innovations -- canals, railroads, electrification, automobiles, aviation, computers, the Internet -- that eventually transforms the economy. In these cases, the prospects of short-term financial gain from riding a bubble mobilizes far more investor capital than prudent professional investors would otherwise dole out. Moreover, the very momentum of the bubble forces those careful investors to join the herd lest their relative underperformance leave them with no funds to invest: Warren Buffet, who successfully steered clear of the great dotcom/telecom bubble of 1998-2000, is the exception that proves the rule. Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/69k>

PEACE & SECURITY

7. Kerry's Interview on Syria with NBC's Meet the Press/ By IIP Digital, September 2013.

Secretary of State John Kerry says there is clear and compelling evidence that the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad executed a deadly chemical weapons attack against Syrian civilians August 21 that killed at least 1,429 people, including 426 children. "This is the indiscriminate, inconceivable horror of chemical weapons," Kerry said in a nationally broadcast briefing from the State Department. "This is what Assad did to his own people." Please read more Kelly's interview on Syria with NBC's Meet the Press at <http://snip.state.gov/69c>

8. President Obama's Remarks on Syria/ By Rose Garden. The Whitehouse.gov, August 31, 2013.

Ten days ago, the world watched in horror as men, women and children were massacred in Syria in the worst chemical weapons attack of the 21st century. Yesterday the United States presented a powerful case that the Syrian government was responsible for this attack on its own people. Our intelligence shows the Assad regime and its forces preparing to use chemical weapons, launching rockets in the highly populated suburbs of Damascus, and acknowledging that a chemical weapons attack took place. And all of this corroborates what the world can plainly see -- hospitals overflowing with victims; terrible images of the dead. All told, well over 1,000 people were murdered. Several hundred of them were children -- young girls and boys gassed to death by their own government.

Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/69f>

9. White House on Assessment of Syrian Use of Chemical Weapon/ By The White House, August 30, 2013

The United States Government assesses with high confidence that the Syrian government carried out a chemical weapons attack in the Damascus suburbs on August 21, 2013. We further assess that the regime used a nerve agent in the attack. These all-source assessments are based on human, signals, and geospatial intelligence as well as a significant body of open source reporting. Our classified assessments have been shared with the U.S. Congress and key international partners. To protect sources and methods, we cannot publicly release all available intelligence -- but what follows is an unclassified summary of the U.S. Intelligence Community's analysis of what took place. Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/69g>

AMERICAN SOCIETY & VALUES

10. King's Dream Remains an Elusive Goal; Many Americans See Racial Disparities/ By Pew Research Social and Demographic Trends, August 22, 2013.

Five decades after Martin Luther King's historic "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C., a new survey by the Pew Research Center finds that fewer than half (45%) of all Americans say the country has made substantial progress toward racial equality and about the same share (49%) say that "a lot more" remains to be done. Blacks are much more downbeat than whites about the pace of progress toward a color-blind society. They are also more likely to say that blacks are treated less fairly than whites by police, the courts, public schools and other key community institutions. While these differences by race are large, significant minorities of whites agree that blacks receive unequal treatment when dealing with the criminal justice system. Available online at <http://snip.state.gov/671>

11. The Void in Charter Schools: How Can Kids Develop A Love for Reading Without A Library to Nurture Them?/ By Maria R. Traska. American Libraries, June 2013.

The education reform movement embraces school choice as a key component in strengthening K-12 education in the US. Reformers say that in order for students in underperform-

ing schools to succeed, they need the option of transferring into a differently structured public education program unbound by the bureaucratic confines of traditional public schools. Proponents see the solution in having a parent or other nonprofit group, or in some cases a for-profit entity, contract with a public school system to create an alternative school under a charter with fewer strictures than what traditional public schools must adhere to. Available online at <http://snip.state.gov/673>

12. Is There Really Such a Thing as a 'Workaholic'?/ By Jordan Weissmann. The Atlantic Magazine, August 2013.

When the American psychologist Wayne Oates died in 1999, The New York Times began his obituary by noting two facts. First, the man had authored an astonishing 57 books. Second—and presumably not coincidentally—he had invented the word workaholic. Oates coined the now-ubiquitous term in a 1968 essay, in which he confessed that his own addiction to industriousness had been a disorder akin to substance abuse. Of course, he acknowledged, workaholicism is much more socially respectable than drinking a fifth a day—the sort of personality trait that might help someone, say, earn an obit in the paper of record. Currently available at <http://snip.state.gov/69i>

13. Googling Yourself Takes on a Whole New Meaning/ By Clive Thomson. The New York Times Magazine, August 2013

Google Glass is the company's attempt to mainstream what the tech industry calls wearable computing, to take the computer off your desk or out of your pocket and keep it in your field of view. In a world where we're already peering at screens all day long, pecked at by alerts, the prospect of an eyeball computer can provoke a shudder. But over several weeks of using the device myself, I began to experience some of the intriguing — and occasionally delightful — aspects of this new machine. I got used to glancing up to start texting and emailing by addressing its surprisingly accurate voice-transcription capabilities. I set up calendar reminders that dinged in my ear. I used an app that guided me back to my car in a parking lot. I had tweets from friends float across my gaze. Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/69j>

eLibraryUSA Database -elibraryusa.state.gov

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INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER'S PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES

ABOUT US

The Information Resource Center (IRC) of the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta is a specialized reference and research facility. Our goal is to provide you with accurate, up-to-date and authoritative information about the United States. Our collections include the updated reference titles, a periodical section, DVDs movie and music, audio books, games and access to extensive online database which cover topics ranged from American policy, government, politics, economics, history, English language, education, culture, society as well as global topic of interests.

Our professionally-trained reference specialists use a wide array of resources to retrieve the information quickly, conveniently. With one day appointment in-advanced, walk-in visitors are welcomed to visit the IRC facility, to use its resources, get research assistances and attend various programs on English language, EducationUSA, information literacy classes and movies/ gaming activities at no cost. We open on weekdays (except for Indonesian and American Holidays) from 8.00 AM to 04.00 PM.

Check our collections via our online catalog at: <http://snip.state.gov/58x>



Learn, Explore, Play and Enjoy the IRC

Christophorus, Andrew, Revita, Panji Surya, Laras and Annisa explored the IRC Collections of games, books, magazines and eLibraryUSA (June 30, 2013)

September 2013 Programs:

- ◆ 3rd week of September 2013
Opening of the American Corner
Universitas Pattimura , Ambon
- ◆ September 20, 2013
English Learning: Writing Class
- ◆ 4th week of September 2013
i-Literacy Session: eLibraryUSA Training

To join our programs and make appointment for the visit as well as to request for program opportunities, please contact us at:

The U.S. Embassy Annex
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You can also do research and join U.S. Embassy programs at IRC Surabaya and American Corners in Indonesia.

IRC Surabaya

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American Corners in Indonesia

American Corners are partnerships between the U.S. Embassy and major universities in Indonesia. For more details on services and current programs at each Corner, please explore at <http://snip.state.gov/5wc>

ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM

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Name: _____

Organization: _____

Complete Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone/Cell Phone: _____

Request for:

- 1. The Causes and Consequences of Earth Overshoot Day
- 2. How the U.S. Economy is Like a Casino
- 3. How Governments Are Innovating Their Workforces
- 4. Earth's Weighty Wellsprings
- 5. Three Cities That Used Natural Disasters to Revitalize Their Futures
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- 7. Kerry's Interview on Syria with NBC's Meet the Press
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